

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6779

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, TBIO, PLOS, MX

SUBJECT: PORPOISE SURVEY IN MEXICO

REF: (A) MEXICO 9069; (B) STATE 170483; (C) MEXICO 7900

1. SCICOUNS HAS DISCUSSED NMFS PORPOISE SURVEY PLANS WITH ENGR. MANUEL MONDRAGON, PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO UNDERSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES. MONDRAGON OFFERED NO ENCOURAGEMENT AND ADVISED THAT WE TAKE SUBJECT UP WITH SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

2. IN VIEW OF GOM SENSITIVITY CONCERNING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OVER MEXICAN LAND OR SEAS AND EMBASSY OPINION THAT APPROACH TO SECRETARIAT FOREIGN RELATIONS WOULD RESULT IN DISAPPROVAL (REF C), WE DO NOT RECOMMEND SUBMITTING REQUEST TO FOREIGN RELATIONS. FURTHERMORE, SINCE MEXICO IS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE PURSE-SEINING IS USED FOR TUNA FISHING, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO ASSIST US IN THIS PROGRAM.

3. IN EMBASSY VIEW FOLLOWING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE:

(1) SUBMIT NOTE REQUESTING PROJECT APPROVAL TO SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY NOT CONFIDENT SUCH APPROVAL WOULD BE GRANTED BY FOREIGN RELATIONS, WE ARE PREPARED TO SUBMIT NOTE IF DEPT. SO WISHES.

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(2) PROJECT COULD BE MODIFIED AS WHOLLY MEXICAN

OPERATION USING MEXICAN CONTRACTOR, PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT ETC. EMBASSY THEN WOULD GO THROUGH FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR NECESSARY APPROVALS. WITH? WE BELIEVE? SOMEWHAT BETTER PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS.

(3) LET CONTRACTOR HANDLE ON ITS OWN WITHOUT US CONTACT WITH FOREIGN RELATIONS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS HIGHLY UNWISE SINCE WE COULD BE SUBJECT TO ACCUSATION OF USING FOREIGN AGENTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO US.

(4) DEVELOP WITH APPROPRIATE MEXICAN TECHNICAL AGENCY GENUINE JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING BOTH U.S. AND MEXICAN SCIENTISTS AND FACILITIES AND INVOLVING STUDIES BOTH IN U.S. AND MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. SUCH A JOINT PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO BE OF DEMONSTRABLE INTEREST TO GOM. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS OPTION MOST LIKELY RESULT IN SUCCESSFUL SURVEY.

(5) A VARIATION ON OPTION(4) IS TO HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SPONSOR AND CARRY OUT THE PROPOSED SURVEY WITH ACTIVE U.S. AND MEXICAN PARTICIPATION.

4. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.

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